BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0071] Further aspects of the present invention will become apparent from the following description which is given by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0072] **FIG. 1** shows a simplified perspective view of a dual screen display operating in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0073] **FIG. 1** shows a multi focal plane display operating in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The display indicated by the general reference numeral **(1)** is preliminary comprised of a background screen **(2)** orientated parallel with, but spaced apart from a foreground screen **(3)**. In the preferred embodiment shown in **FIG. 1**, both screens **(2, 3)** are transparent liquid crystal displays LCD panels though the invention is not necessarily limited to same. A back-light **(4)** is located behind the rearward screen **(2)** to provide illumination for the whole display **(1)**.

[0074] The display screens **(2, 3)** are each capable of displaying either primary **(5)** or secondary **(6)** information. **FIG. 1** shows primary information **(5)** displayed on the forward screen **(3)** and secondary information **(6)** displayed on the rearward screen **(2)**. It will be appreciated that the converse situation is equally feasible, ie the primary information **(5)** being displayed on the rearward screen **(2)** and vice versa The primary information **(5)** and secondary information **(6)** may both be comprised of any form of text, symbols, alphanumeric characters, animations and so forth. However, the content of the secondary information **(6)** is such that a user viewing the primary information **(5)** on the forward screen **(3)** would receive a beneficial affect due to some enhancing or augmenting quality of the secondary information **(6)**. This enhancing quality may take many forms and these include, but are not limited to an increased reading and/or comprehension speed of the primary information **(5)**, a greater retention, perception of related information and so forth. As an example, a information passage describing a geographical location written in conventional text on the forward screen **(3)** the primary information **(5)** in the form of being read by a user would fall within the definition of the primary information **(5)** in that the information would be the focus of the viewers conscious reading actions and occupying their direct attention. A representation of the content of the primary information **(5)** may be shown concurrently in graphical form on the rearward screen **(2)** as the secondary information **(6)**. This exemplary scenario is illustrated in **FIG. 1** whereby the primary information **(5)** is a text passage describing the sunrise over a particular mountain feature and the secondary information provides a visual representation of the actual mountain and rising sun. The location of the rearward screen **(2)** in a second focal plane behind that of the primary information on the forward screen **(3)** results in only a peripheral, subconscious awareness of the content of the secondary information to the user viewing the primary information **(5)**.

[0075] The user will therefore experience a greater sense of the actual physical shape and surroundings to the feature described in the textual description(s) on the forward screen **(3)** enhancing their reading experience.

[0076] An alternative technique to enhance the reading speed of a user is to display a particular piece of text as the primary information **(5)** on the forward screen **(3)** whilst displaying the next section of text to be read on the rearward screen **(2)** as the secondary information **(6)**. The secondary information **(6)** thus pre-fetches the text about to be read by the user and thus primes the users subconscious to be more receptive and aware of its content. It is believed that this subconscious imbibing of the additional text increases the quantity of information accessible by the mind and ultimately increases the reading speed and comprehension of the whole message.

[0077] Instead of displaying the secondary information **(6)** simultaneously with the primary information **(5)**, it may alternatively be shown slightly before or after displaying the primary information **(5)** respectively providing a pre-conditioning or re-enforcing effect on the user reading the primary information **(5)**. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that many variations and permutations are possible regarding the content of the primary and secondary information **(5, 6)**, the focal plane location/orientation of their respective displays **(2,3)**, and the manner of displaying the primary and secondary information **(5,6,)** without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention.

[0078] It will be equally apparent that the invention need not necessarily be comprised of information shown on exactly two liquid crystal displays, provided that the effect of viewing the primary information **(5)** (displayed in whatever form) is augmented by the peripheral assimilation of the secondary information **(6)** being displayed on one or more focal planes distinct from the primary information **(5)**.

[0079] Aspects of the present invention have been described by way of example only and it should be appreciated that modifications and additions may be made thereto without departing from the scope thereof.

1. A method displaying information for viewing by a user characterized by the steps of:

displaying primary information on a first focal plane, and

displaying secondary information on at least a second focal plane peripherally to said primary information, wherein said secondary information exhibits at least one characteristic, in addition to a perception of depth, capable of augmenting the effect of the primary information on the user.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the primary information and secondary information are selected from the group comprising alpha-numeric characters, symbols, plain text, images, animations, video sequences, a combination of same and any means of visually representing information.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said effect of the secondary information on a user viewing the primary information includes one or more of;

an improved assimilation of the content or message contained by the primary information;

an improved reading and/or comprehension speed;

an enhanced ability to embedded, implied or related facts (directly or indirectly), links, nuances, innuendoes or